



Allandale Neighbor

March 2007
Vol 22, Issue 2

DISTRIBUTED TO MORE THAN 3,100 HOMES BY THE ALLANDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The Mayor of Allandale Wants You: A Tribute to Phyllis Brinkley

C Yang

What can be said about the unofficial Mayor of Allandale? Clearly, the ANA, one of the largest neighborhood associations in Austin, and the Allandale neighborhood itself would not be what they are if it were not for Phyllis Brinkley. Austin would not be the same if it wasn't for the efforts of Phyllis Brinkley

Every major item in the history of Allandale since 1955, when Phyllis and her family moved here, has been touched by Phyllis.

- Neighborhood Legend—as named by the ANA, House of Representatives and City Council (1993)

- Koenig Lane Freeway Fight
- Zoning and Sector Planning
- Environmental Board
- Corridor Planning
- Smart Growth Densification
- Hancock and Bull Creek Standardization

Continued on page 10

Letter from the Editors

Tom Linehan and C Yang

2007 is off with many changes for the Allandale Neighbor, and among them is a fresh new look. Thanks to Cathy Savage, our layout and design person, for the new design. We will also start publishing the newsletter bimonthly so we can stay in touch with you more often. Cathy Yang and Tom Linehan are the new co-editors.

Together, we bring many exciting new ideas for upcoming stories. Our best idea however is to tap the talent in the neighborhood for “beat coverage,” volunteers who can research and report on Allandale-related matters. One of the

characteristics of the neighborhood that people said they valued in our recent neighborhood survey is a strong sense of community. We believe keeping residents informed and getting their involvement in the newsletter and the web site builds community. The areas we're looking for coverage on include:

- Events
- Personal Finance/Real Estate Info
- Environmental News (recycling, energy, rain barrels, etc.)
- Food—seasonal vegetables, local eateries

Issue Highlights:

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Rules of Order for Better Meetings . .14
as well as articles on Vertical Mix Use,
a Ball Moss Update, Constable Notebook and our very own Dog Talk

**Please join us for our
March General
Meeting on March 28
beginning at 6 p.m.
at the Ralph
Yarborough Library
on Hancock Drive**

- Recreation/Fitness
- Health/Medical News (Vet, Alternative, Medical, Massage, Exercise, etc.)
- Gardening tips for Allandale
- Neighborhood Safety
- Home Remodeling/Fix It
- School Activities/Events

Please send us an email and let us know your interest and we will follow up with the details. If you have other ideas, send them along as well to: allandalereporter@yahoo.com. Thanks. And we hope you like our new look. ❖

—Tom and Cathy

The Allandale Neighbor

is published bimonthly by the
Allandale Neighborhood Association (ANA)

www.allandalereporter.org

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ADVERTISERS AND CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**

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ANA Executive Committee

PRESIDENT Gretchen Vaden Nagy
VICE PRESIDENT Tom Linehan
TREASURER Paul Nagy
SECRETARY Katie Hansen
MEMBERS Linnea Anderson, Michael
Bomba, Allan McMurtry,
Joe Reynolds, Cathy Yang

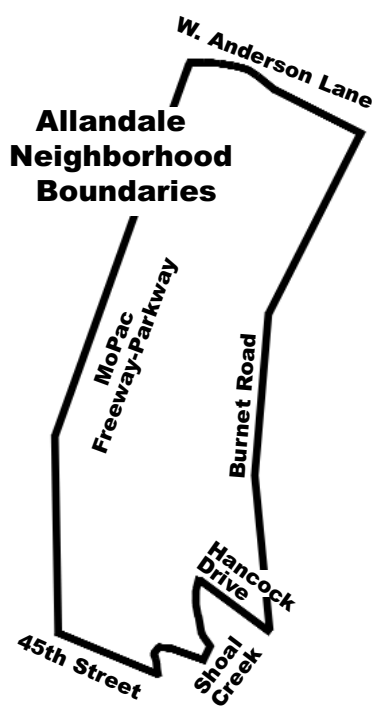
ANA General Meetings are held March and
September on the fourth Wednesday. The Executive
Committee meets every month, on the fourth
Wednesday, at 7:00 p.m. at the Yarbrough Library,
2200 Hancock Drive. Meetings are open to the public.

Committees

**BEAUTIFICATION
BY LAW** Linnea Anderson, chair
COMMUNICATIONS
FUNDRAISING Joe Reynolds, chair
**NOMINATING
PLANNING** Ranleigh Hirsch, Kerry
Kimbrough, Steven Zettner
(co-chairs)

Allandale Police District Representative

David Crowder, 974-5545,
david.crowderjr@ci.austin.tx.us



Allandale Executive Committee Meeting: January 24, 2007 Minutes

Katie Hansen

Seven board members were present:
Gretchen Vaden-Nagy, Paul Nagy,
Tom Linehan, Linnea Anderson, Allan
McMurtry, Katie Hansen and Joe
Reynolds.

The following motions were made
and passed.

Linnea motioned for Tom Linehan and
Katie Hansen to assume the duties of
vice president and secretary, respectively.

Paul Nagy presented the ANA
Treasury Report. The net available,
minus the payables, was \$24,706.23.

Allan made a motion to allow the
treasurer to pay incidentals without
prior board approval, not to exceed
\$250. from now through April.

Tom Linehan presented a Newsletter
Report. Recommendations were to 1)
keep the Newsletter in-house and pub-
lish bimonthly and 2) pay an advertis-
ing coordinator which would be
a paying position of 5% of the ad rev-
enue per newsletter. Tom made a
motion to approve these two recom-
mendations and to revisit these recom-
mendations after two releases.

Allan made a motion to form a nom-
inations committee, on Gretchen's

advice, to identify candidates to fill
seats on the board consisting of three
members of the executive committee
and two members of the general mem-
bership. Allan, Katie and Joe will form
the executive committee members.

Allan made a motion to engage a
registered parliamentarian to review the
ANA bylaws and make recommenda-
tions for modification by February 28,
2006, with fee not to exceed \$500.

Gretchen appointed several commit-
tees which include a communications
committee to help with the flow of
information to the members of the
neighborhood to be made up of Tom
Linehan, Cathy Savage and Cathy Yang.
Gretchen appointed a beautification
committee to be chaired by Linnea
Anderson. Gretchen appointed a
fundraising committee to focus on rais-
ing money for legal fees that may be
needed to resolve the Northcross re-
development issue. This committee is
to be chaired by Joe Reynolds.

A motion was made in accordance
with a vote at the January meeting, Joe
Reynolds is chair of the fundraising
committee.

Paul made a motion that the ANA
allocate \$2500 for payment of Bruce
Bigelow's (legal counsel to the ANA)
services and up to \$5000 for retaining a
traffic engineer. The traffic engineer must
be approved by the Executive Committee
before hired.

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Joe Reynolds made a motion that \$3000 be allocated to RG4N, as approved by the general membership in January.

Linnea made a motion that Michael Bomba and Cathy Yang fill two of the vacancies on the Allandale Executive Committee.

The meeting ended with a statement by Gretchen Vaden Nagy and Paul Nagy:

"We choose to give of ourselves to organizations and causes where there are civil and collegial approaches to serving. Unfortunately, we have not experienced this much in Allandale recently. Following the resignations of Kay Newell, Susan Frank, Jeff Frank and Patrick Manley, who we thank for their friendship and service to our neighborhood, we are also going to resign as officers of the Allandale Neighborhood Association due to the conduct of some of our neighbors. We will assist in a smooth transition so that the work of the Association proceeds without interruption."

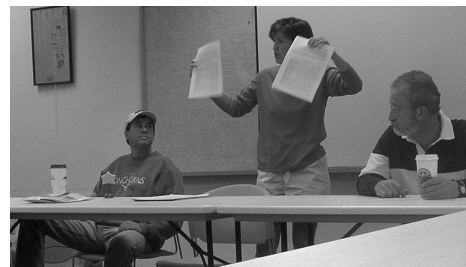
Meeting adjourned.

These minutes are posted on the web site: www.allandalereporter.org. ❖

Thank You to Gretchen and Paul

Tom Linehan

At the January 24th Executive Committee meeting, Gretchen and Paul Nagy announced that they would be resigning as President and Treasurer of the Allandale Neighborhood Association (ANA). It's a bigger job than most people realize with much of it done behind the scenes. There are the monthly Executive Committee (EC) meetings to prepare for, the general membership meetings to organize and conduct, zoning issues to attend to, the annual 4th of July parade, membership dues to collect, a newsletter to help out with, and ongoing committees to work with. Both have put in a number of years of service to the neighborhood association involved in all of these activities. They are commended for their ongoing commitment to keeping the association running smoothly. Their resignations will take effect following the next EC meeting in February. Both are committed to ensuring a smooth



transition and will be working closely with the other Executive Committee members on the knowledge transfer.

Other changes to the EC include the resignation of Susan and Jeff Frank, who we'd also like to thank for their years of service to the neighborhood association, and to Kay Newell, who served as Secretary and was an overall resource regarding all things neighborhood. Patrick Manley, a more recent EC member, also resigned this month. Patrick set up the Allandale Neighborhood Improvement Challenge. Collectively, their involvement in the neighborhood has contributed to the making and preservation of a great neighborhood! None of these people are moving away and we hope we can continue to rely on to them as resources on future neighborhood matters. ❖

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Results from January, 2007 Allandale Neighborhood Northcross Redevelopment Survey

Tom Linehan

The results from our recent survey on the Northcross redevelopment are in and they're not much different from our earlier online survey conducted in November. The survey was included in the January Special Issue Newsletter that was delivered to Allandale households. Residents were asked to complete the short survey and mail it back by January 16th. We subsequently learned that approximately 300 out of the 3,000 households in the neighborhood did not receive the newsletter and consequently were unable to complete it.

Out of the 289 responses we received, the majority of residents are opposed to the Northcross redevelopment that includes a Wal-Mart. Specifically, 73% of the respondents are opposed, 26% are for, and 1% have no opinion.

What follows are some of the comments people submitted with the survey. You can find the full set of comments on

the web site:
www.allandalereporter.org:

- A redevelopment plan that enhances our neighborhood would be great but that's not Wal-Mart.
- Am concerned about high traffic volume and size of proposed store being open 24/7. Don't approve of the secrecy in approving the contract just like the large pay increase the city council rammed through without citizen input.
- Change is good. What are we afraid of? Our world is changing—why can't Allandale grow from such a project? Sure would be convenient

Results from January, 2007 Allandale Neighborhood Survey

Let us know where you stand on the Northcross Redevelopment as it is currently planned.

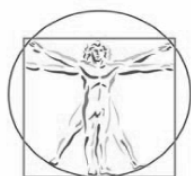
I support the redevelopment of Northcross which includes a Wal-Mart	75	26%
I don't support the redevelopment of Northcross which includes a Wal-Mart	211	73%
I don't have an opinion	3	1%
Total Respondents	289	

frequently shop at Wal-Mart	24	9%
sometimes shop at Wal-Mart	98	36%
never shop at Wal-Mart	151	55%
Total Respondents	273	

Age Group		
under 35	29	11%
36-55	112	41%
over 55	132	48%
Total Respondents	273	

and less travel. Business is business/everyone isn't rich. Older—on fixed incomes.

- Do not spend any hard-earned ANA funds on a legal battle on this issue. Let those who want to pursue a lawsuit, including RG4N, raise and fund their own efforts.
- Don't shop Wal-Mart but we will if it's only 3 minutes away.



Abilio Muñoz, M.D.

Board Certified, Family Practice

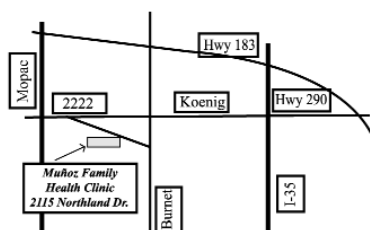
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- I support development at Northcross. Just not with Wal-Mart.
- If it was closer to the size of Lowes, not open 24 hours and stays the same Texas rock architectural design.
- I'm all for developing Northcross, but without a Big Box store.
- I'm not so much pro Wal-Mart but we definitely need a superstore of some sort in this area. So I support it.
- Northcross needs development help but not Wal-Mart.
- Too large! Will create traffic headaches! Would love to see a smaller scale version.
- Wal-Mart will drive out smaller businesses. ❖

Allandale Delivers List of Neighborhood Priorities to the City

Linnea Anderson

At the city's request, Allandale Neighborhood Association (ANA) submitted a list of neighborhood priorities related to the proposed Northcross development.

The list was a result of a two week effort by a team of Allandale volunteers. Contributors included: Allan McMurtry, Katie Hansen, Steve Zettner, Michael Bomba, Kay Newell, Mark Weiler, Gretchen Vaden, Jesse VanValkenberg, Linnea Anderson and the ANA board.

The ANA list covers neighborhood concerns and interests in great detail. For Wal-Mart and Lincoln Property Company:

- Online Poll Concerns
- Neighborhood Wide Concerns
- Traffic Impact
- Traffic Fund
- Buildings and Parking Garage—Size and Design
- Open/Community Space
- Walkability
- Ease of Access
- Safety
- Merchandise—Wal-Mart
- Stores—Northcross & Wal-Mart
- Neighborhood Communication
- Security
- Hours of Operation
- Green Building

For the City of Austin:

- Notification Process
- TIA Process
- Neighborhood Association Authority
- Code Language

A list is being used by the city in ongoing negotiations with the developer and proposed tenants.

To see what was submitted, please go to the Allandale Reporter website (<http://www.allandalereporter.org>).

Any neighbor interested in contributing to the task force, please contact Linnea Anderson at 750-8902. ❖

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Results from January, 2007 Allandale Neighborhood Survey

Tom Linehan and Kerry Kimbrough

Residents of Allandale are most concerned about trees and greenspace, preserving the feel of the neighborhood, and traffic according to the recently completed Allandale Neighborhood Survey. Keeping it affordable, quiet, and fortified with community spirit are some of the characteristics residents said would make it better.

What follows is a summary of the results prepared by Kerry Kimbrough, Co-Chair, ANA Neighborhood Planning Committee. There were a total of 539 completed surveys submitted by the deadline, 139 of which arrived by mail or were dropped off, and the remaining completed online.

Many thanks to the core survey group who spent quite a bit of time on this project: Kay Newell, Kerry Kimbrough, Ranleigh Hirsh, Steven Zettner, and Tom Linehan. Thanks also go to the ANA Executive Committee for their support and assistance with this effort.

From Kerry Kimbrough:

Did you recently complete the Allandale Neighborhood Survey? Are you curious to know how it turned out? Well, the time has come. The Austin Neighborhood Survey is now complete.

The ANA Neighborhood Planning Committee plans a series of reports to present the results of this survey. Here is the first of those reports.

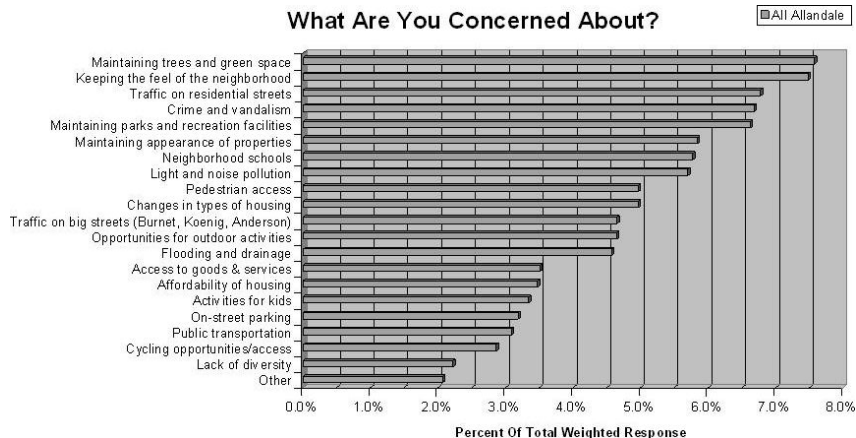
In this report, we show the overall response, across all sections of Allandale, to the primary questions of the survey.

In the first three questions respondents entered a response to several options at one of four different levels (for example,

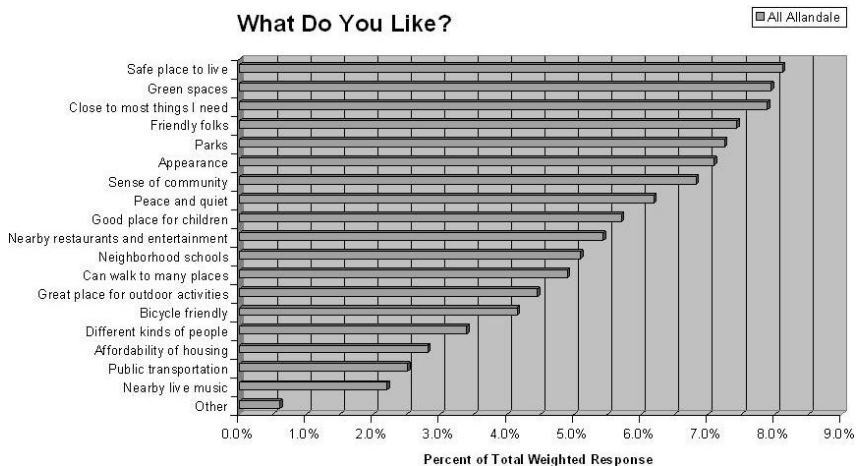
ranging from “Not Concerned” to “Very Concerned”, etc.) As the levels increase, so does the “weight” of the choice—a “first place” vote carries more weight than a “second place” vote, and so on. So, the results for these questions show the distribution of the total weight of all choices selected by everyone. For example, a value of 5% means 5% of the total weight of all first-, second-, third-, and fourth-place votes that were cast. By definition, the percentages shown for all options add up to 100%.


For the question of “How are you involved with Allandale?”, things are a bit different. Here, respondents could select multiple choices. For example, you might both live and work in the neighborhood.

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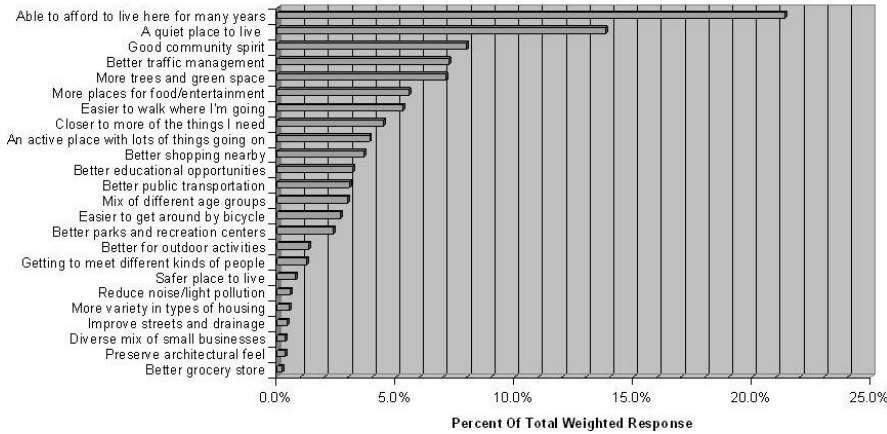
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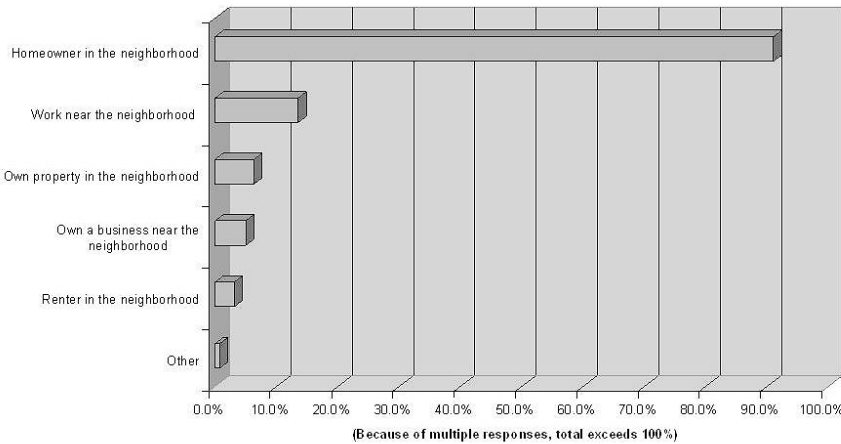
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How Are You Involved With Allandale?



That's why the total of all the percentages shown for this question exceeds 100%.

What's next? Stay tuned for further reports that cover the remaining parts of the survey and that show more detailed analysis of the results. ❖

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Fundraising Preparations Underway

Dan Jones

On January 13, 2007, a cold, wet Saturday afternoon, approximately 200 Allandale residents came to a meeting at Covenant Presbyterian Church. Neighbor after neighbor expressed just how passionate they are against their beloved neighborhood being ruined by Lincoln Property Company's and Wal-Mart's Northcross site plan. During the discussion, Allandale resident and lawyer Jim Bryce dramatically demonstrated that it takes a show of power in the form of money to get corporations to sit down and talk. He suggested we raise a sizeable pot of money for a lawsuit to get their attention.

Well, Allandale Neighborhood Association is responding to that suggestion. We have established a legal fundraising committee, headed by longtime Allandale resident and ANA board member Joe Reynolds.

Mr. Reynolds emphasizes just how important it is to the committee that your hard-earned dollars are protected, and used for the purpose you intended.

Regular ANA monies from membership dues won't be used for the legal effort but for the usual neighborhood tasks, like the parade and PTAs. He has established a new P.O. Box to be used solely for contributions, a bank account separate from the main ANA account, and procedures to assure that at least two committee members are tracking the funds at all times. Three signatures are required for disbursement, and a CPA will audit the fund regularly. If the fund isn't entirely used, contributors will be refunded the portion of their money remaining, as they wish.

Watch for announcements of upcoming fun activities. If you would like to contribute now, write your check to Allandale Fundraiser Legal Fund and mail it to:

PO Box 10971
Austin, Texas 78766-1971

Dan Jones is a member of the ANA Legal Fundraising Committee and can be reached at Dan-Jones@mail.utexas.edu. ❖

Shoal Creek Trees and Ball Moss—An Update

Leslie Christensen

In order to address the ball moss in the greenbelt there were a number of plans put into action. Shane Parten (Apex Arborists) volunteered to get as many arborists as he could to donate a day in the park. While he had some promises, unfortunately he was the only one who showed. He cited stringent city requirements as the reason for the lack of turn out. It took Shane six hours to deadhead and remove ball moss from one and a half trees. The reason he gave for the little headway was the fact that the trees haven't been deadheaded in decades. The board of the Allandale Neighborhood Association thanks Shane for his time and expertise, and the numerous calls he made to other arborists and city personnel.

Sid Mourning had given us a bid to cut out the deadwood and most of the ball moss using one crew for four days with a total cost of \$4400. However,

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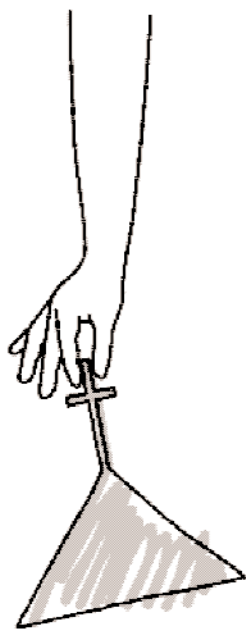
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due to the city's requirement that companies with crews carry workers' compensation, he is unable to do the job.

Gretchen Vaden had spoken to Councilman Brewster McCracken about his getting some money from the city electric department's tree budget diverted to this park project. I do not have an update on this.

Currently, we are waiting for Todd Watson, A&M's ball moss expert to run a preliminary test on a product called Milstop to see if it will kill the ball moss. If it works he will let us know, at which point we will have to come up with from \$500-\$5000 to do an official study which can be used to get the EPA to approve its use. This would be the most cost-effective way to get rid of the ball moss.

Ball moss is only one of the stressors that are threatening our trees. Other problems include lack of timely dead-heading, multiple years of drought, and excess soil covering root flares. We were able to get the contractor who put in the sidewalks along Shoal Creek to remove the excess dirt from the flares and to

build concrete wells around the back side of the trees to prevent soil from returning with the next floodwaters. The trees are also suffering from soil compaction. Our attempt to solve this by drilling holes from the base of the trees to the dripline was unworkable. There is a device that will decompact the earth around the trees without hurting the roots. A few Austin companies have it, though this may be a costly solution.

The bottom line at this point is the trees still need a lot of help. It is up to the neighborhood association and its board to decide if this is a priority for the community and what our next steps will be.

There will be a more thorough explanation of what options are available to help the tree on line on the Allandale Reporter. ❖



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A Tribute to Phyllis Brinkley

Continued from page 1

- Shoal Creek Channelization and Northwest Park Retaining Pond
- Northwest playscapes, restrooms, walkways—destroyed in Memorial Day Flood (1981)
- Loop 1 & 183 Improvement Study
- Keeping an Inner City Library – expansion and purchase of Americana Theater
- Shoal Creek Traffic Calming
- Recreation Center
- Church Expansion
- Railroad Noise—trains idling, planting of trees as a sound barrier
- Great Northern Walkover
- Post Office Move
- Fourth of July Parade
- *Allandale Neighbor* Creation—hand delivery of the newsletter to 3500 homes on 127 streets
- Candy Cane Lane
- History of Allandale Neighborhood Association (Author)

There is no doubt that Allandale is her love. The first thing Phyllis asked me when I went to visit her at Gracy Woods Nursing Center, where she is undergoing rehab, is “What’s going on with Wal-Mart? I am very worried about the impact of a store this size on the neighborhood, especially the impact of traffic on home values and the safety of our kids, their parents, and the elderly.” Continuing on she said, “It has taken many years and many fights to get Allandale where it is today. For some it has been a commitment of time, for others a commitment of money. We need both this time.”

When Phyllis is able, you can count on her coming to the neighborhood meetings. That’s the kind of person she is. Phyllis has always been active in community, environmental and civic affairs. She is known for speaking the truth—her facts are beyond reproach. She’s not big on being a spokesperson but would rather work *behind the scenes...* and, oh, the scenes have been many.

Over 50 years ago, when Phyllis first moved here, Allandale was just being developed and the streets were few and far between.

She taught for 30 years and considers children to be the world’s greatest asset. “The thing about them,” she said, “is that they’re

going to grow up to be adults.” Though much can be said of good parenting, she’s seen many children who were not so fortunate but “come along and make good leaders in the community.”

Her daughter, Deborah, has always admired her mother for her ability to teach, go to school to get her Masters in Education or Certificates in Counseling and Supervision and still make the time to create a wonderful family life. She was especially proud of the time her mother was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

Deborah remembers that growing up in Allandale as an idyllic time—riding her bike on the streets, going to friends’ homes or down to the creek.

Because of her inclusive nature and knowing what it was to be an only child, Phyllis always encouraged Deborah to bring a friend along on family outings—from canoeing down the Guadalupe, boating on Lake Austin and waterskiing from Ski Shores, to heading out to an island on Lake Travis with several other families to picnic and camp. Her husband, Bob, did the cooking, but Phyllis was the baker. She used to make what she called a “healthy” breakfast . . . but I’ll leave you to ask Deborah about that one.

It’s said that behind every great man there stands a woman, but for the Brinkleys, the reverse is true. Bob is Phyllis’ biggest fan. He will tell you that Phyllis has never met someone she doesn’t like and accepts people for who

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they are, while, he, on the other hand, takes a while to warm up. Bob and Phyllis both come from Jacksonville in East Texas. Though they knew one another in high school, it wasn't until Bob came home after serving in the Marines that they started dating. Bob left Texas A&M to attend UT-Austin, where Phyllis was going.

The rest, you can say, is history. I have other stories—about the railroad trestle, the 100cc Kawasaki, swimming in Barton Springs, and more—but I've been sworn to secrecy.

To imagine Allandale without Phyllis Brinkley is like seeing Pottersville in "It's a Wonderful Life": Koenig Lane is a toll road; strip clubs line Burnet Road; there is no library, no recreation center, no playground in the park; and a 24-hour Wal-Mart dominates the few stores

left. The Fourth of July goes by uncelebrated—there are no parades, and the streets are darker at Christmas unlit by Candy Cane Lane. The trains idle on the railroad tracks, there is no walkover on Great Northern and the stretch of homes on 45th Street have all been replaced by a single church.

There is no neighborhood association, no newsletter. One wonders if there would be an Allandale at all, if it weren't for the love and dedication of Phyllis Brinkley.

Everyone who comes in contact with this "neighborhood legend" agrees that she has been instrumental in the neighborhood's success. Phyllis was undaunted by the enormity of her tasks and in finding talented people to work with her. Whether she was coordinating over 200 volunteers to deliver the newsletter or meeting with the City Council, she was adamant about getting things done. She was recognized as a force to be reckoned with yet still compassionate. Her message to the neighborhood is this—"Not saying anything is saying something. Get involved." ♦

"But for Phyllis Brinkley and her ongoing indefatigable and historic efforts, Allandale today would be forever divided by a controversial concrete-oriented cross-town expressway. Everyone knew it was her relentless involvement in community organizing efforts against the proposed project that ultimately led to its defeat."

—Elliott Naishtat,
Texas House of Representatives
member, January 25, 2007





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Terra Toys ... Nurturing the Spirit of Children

C Yang

As you walk into Terra Toys, the smiles on children's faces and sounds of laughter say it all. Charles Edwards and Romalda Allsup, partners in life and business, have just celebrated their second Christmas season on Anderson Lane, after their move here in 2004 from South Congress Avenue.

Austin may be famous for businesses started in garages, but not all products are high tech. Twenty-seven years ago, Austin's northernmost suburban mall, Northcross, was only four years old, when this young couple started out. Charles and Romalda met down on the "Forty Acres" (aka UT) and finished school. They started to make toys in their garage apartment—wooden pull toys, push toys, spinners and rain sticks. They soon rented an old mechanic's garage at 1st Street and Congress and turned it into a workshop. Though the toys were sold wholesale and they worked mostly at night to avoid the sweltering heat or to allow time during the day to sell to retailers, people would

walk into their small shop and want to buy something. When the property sold to downtown developers, Terra Toys moved to South Congress.

Gradually, retail sales took over and Charles and Romalda found themselves in need of a store big enough to be a "cool good toy store." Their criteria were easy access and parking, accessibility from anywhere in the city, and somewhere perceived as a central location. They wanted to go to where the families were and were able finally to "move into the customer base" when an agent brought them to Anderson Lane. Here, they found the space which allowed fuller expression and more storefront. The new location has worked out very well for them.

Terra Toys carries novelties, dolls, plush toys, art supplies, books and music, games, puzzles, outdoor toys, toys for infants and toddlers, and a few of Charles' own designs, like his climbing heart. The Anderson Lane store has the same square footage as the previous



store, but the better layout has allowed the owners to also incorporate their children's clothing side, Dragon-snaps, into the same space.

Besides location, Terra Toys' success is more likely attributed to their buying philosophy. Romalda, as buyer, shies away from toys that do things for you while looking for toys that are real—toys you can hold in your hands and interact with. The ideal is to have a toy that kids (big ones and little ones) can start playing with when it's set in front of them. In a sense, the toys are both

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Toys may be fun, but running a toy store is hard work—with toy categories far outnumbering hardware. Charles and Romalda travel as far as the Nuremberg Toy Fair, the world’s most prestigious as well as largest toy fair, to search out those special toys that kids can connect to by using their imagination.

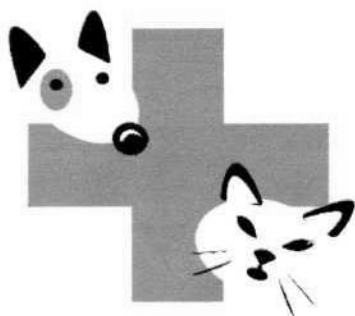
Terra Toys’ name itself reflects the store’s outlook—being grounded to earth. Romalda shared her philosophy

with me: “Toys are kids’ tools. Children have to learn how to manipulate their physical world in order to understand the rules, and what works and what doesn’t.” Toys can teach children how the real world works, while taking them as far as their minds and imaginations will go.

Terra Toys doesn’t follow a supermarket model. You’ll find a knowledgeable sales staff who loves the toys as

much as their customers do and you’ll see customers who come from all over to shop and see what’s new. Those of us in Allandale are fortunate enough to have them nearby. Terra Toys—
“Classic, fun or beautiful toys”

Terra Toys, 2438 West Anderson Ln., Austin, Texas, USA, Planet Earth (512) 445-4489 <http://www.terratoys.com>. ❖



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Rules of Order for Better Meetings

Lauro Cruz

The purpose of parliamentary rules is to make meetings better, faster and more effective. The basic rules follow Robert's Rules of Order, which apply unless otherwise addressed by the adopted Bylaws of the organization.

The four basic objectives in the rules should follow:

- Fairness to all participants.
- One item of business at a time.
- Rights of the minority to be heard.
- Rights of the majority to prevail.

Starting a meeting

- The meeting will come to order (one rap of the gavel).
- Members address the chair as Mr. or Madam President or Madam chairman.
- Establish a quorum. (Bylaws should address number necessary).
- If no quorum, fix time to adjourn, recess, or take steps to establish a quorum.
- Urgent business can be addressed, but must be ratified later by a quorum.

Minutes

Chair will say, "The Secretary will read the minutes." Member may offer changes. When this is concluded, a member may move and another may second the motion for the minutes to be approved.

Treasurer's Report

Chair will say, "The Treasurer will make its report." "Are there any questions?" A motion is made and seconded to **file** the Treasurer's report.

Agenda

Start of Meeting options:

- Invocation, Pledge & Welcome
- Reading of minutes and approval
- Reports of Officers, Boards and Standing Committees
- Reports of Special Committees (Ad Hoc)
- Special Orders (unless special order is set for a time certain)
- Unfinished business and General Orders
- New Business

- Featured Program (recommend special speakers be heard at the **beginning** of agenda.
- Adjourn—Give time and date of next meeting.

Motion Procedure

- A member makes a motion saying "I move that..." another member seconds
- The Chair states the question (the motion)
- The Chair asks for discussion
- The Chair puts the question to a vote and asks for "Ayes" and "No's"
- Chair announces the results of the vote

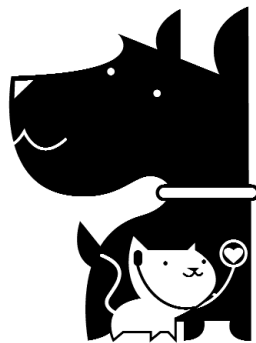
Important Points To Remember

- Amendments must be germane, i.e., closely related to the pending motion. "Move the previous Question": Motion to stop debate and vote.
- Bylaws cannot be suspended unless stated in the bylaws and usually requires more than a majority.
- No member should speak twice on a motion, unless other members have already been recognized to speak.

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- Majority means more than half of the qualified members present, unless a proxy is permitted by the bylaws.
- **A 2/3 vote should be counted either by standing or a show of hands.**

Precedence of Motions

Motions are ranked in the order in which the Chair must recognize them. The main motion is the lowest (in number) ranking motion, which has the rank of **number one**. Listed below, you will find the rankings given for the two categories of motions, *Subsidiary motions* and *Privileged motions*.

Subsidiary Motions:

2. Postpone indefinitely
3. Amend
4. Refer or commit
5. Postpone definitely
6. Limit or Extend Debate
7. Previous Question
8. Lay on the table

Privileged Motions: Highest in rank

9. Orders of the Day
10. Questions of Privilege
11. Recess
12. Adjourn
13. Fix time to Adjourn to

There are two additional categories: *Recall motions* of which there are approximately five, and *Incidental motions*.

Note 1: Some motions can be interrupted—a few do not require a second—some are debatable—some are amendable—some require a simple majority.

Note 2: Any member of the group may ask to be heard on any subject so long as there is not a motion on the floor, e.g., “Mr./Madam Chairman”; Chair recognizes person; Chair may ask any or all members to identify themselves by name before they speak. The Chair may also set a time limit for any speakers to talk about the subject at hand. Also, a member of the organization may make a motion (requires a second) to set a time limit for each speaker. In a small organization a motion and second often

emerges from a general discussion. However, the Chair must still call for discussion no matter how long a subject has previously been discussed before the motion.

Note 3: This overview has been composed by Lauro Cruz to offer some basic rules and procedures to assist those who want to participate in meetings where some knowledge is required in Parliamentary Procedure. Those who seek a greater knowledge in this area should refer to books on Robert’s Rules of Order. ANA’s Bylaws reference the Newly Revised Edition which is currently on its tenth version. ❖



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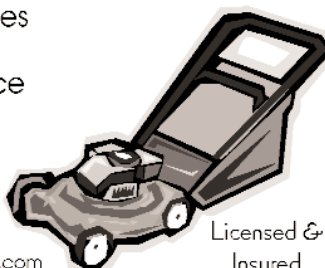
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Life On the Corridor: Vertical Mixed Use

Kerry Kimbrough

Like many neighborhoods, Allandale is defined by a certain geographic pattern: a leafy cocoon of houses nestled inside a box of major roadways. Our box is formed primarily by Mopac and two roads that are defined by the City of Austin as “Core Transit Corridors” (CTCs)—Burnet Road and Anderson Lane. Such CTCs get a lot of attention from city planners because CTCs are places where big issues like transportation and development play out. Austin is an amazing, dynamic organism, and the CTCs are its budding branches. I’m sure you’ve noticed how Burnet and Anderson have been transforming over the years.

Recently, the City of Austin has been trying to deal with these transformations by adopting policies generally

described as “Smart Growth.” Just this month, a new set of design standards for commercial and retail development has gone into effect. Known officially as *Subchapter E of the City Code*, these design standards apply generally within central Austin but focus specifically on development along CTCs like Burnet and Anderson. Among its many provisions for improving livability and economic value, Subchapter E also includes incentives for mixed-use development. The goal of mixed-use development is to create a compatible mix of residential, retail and office use, making it easier for folks to live, shop and work in a pedestrian-friendly area.

Soon, Allandale will have an opportunity for direct input on mixed-use development along Burnet and

Anderson. The City of Austin is asking the Allandale Neighborhood Association for our feedback about Vertical Mixed Use on our CTCs. So what does this mean? And why should you care?

First, a quick definition. Vertical Mixed Use (VMU) means a multi-story building containing a mix of residential, commercial, and office uses. Subchapter E requires a VMU building to be designed for pedestrian-oriented commercial use on the ground floor, but the upper floors may contain a mix of other uses, and at least one floor must contain residential units. VMU development is limited to certain specific types of zoning districts, one of which is called a Vertical Mixed Use Overlay District (VMUOD). How does

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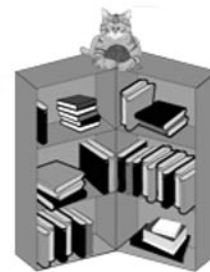
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this apply to Allandale? The answer is “on Burnet and Anderson”. Subchapter E establishes a VMUOD that applies to all commercially zoned properties along a Core Transit Corridor. In other words, a VMU project is permitted at any commercial site on Burnet and Anderson.

Is this a problem? Is VMU good or bad for Allandale? The answer is “it depends.” VMU encourages places to live and shop that are fun, attractive and compatible with the existing neighborhood. Also the VMU rules ensure that developers won’t create places where only rich folks can afford to live. On the other hand, VMU brings more residents and offers reduced requirements for parking space. On yet another hand, VMU rules also protect parking for existing residents on neighborhood streets. On yet another hand, VMU is expensive to build and may not be economically viable on small lots anyway. Sheesh! I’m running out of hands! Suffice it to say that there are a

lot of complicated rules and tradeoffs to consider.

That’s why the city is asking for our feedback. Specifically, we are asked to recommend where we would “opt out” of the VMU provisions. We could recommend that VMU be disallowed on specific sites. Or we could recommend adjustments to some of the incentives and restrictions that are attached to VMU development in our neighborhood. Also, we have the chance to explicitly “opt in” by recommending VMU in locations where it’s not yet specifically allowed.

Interested in VMU? Want to know more about it? Want to help figure out our “opts”? Then check in with your friendly ANA Neighborhood

Planning Committee. We’ve just begun to work on VMU issues, and now is the perfect time to chime in. You can start by sending email to me at kkimbrough@acm.org or to allandaleplanning@yahoogroups.com. I encourage you to take part in this and other neighborhood planning activities by subscribing to this group—just send an email to allandaleplanning-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. ❖

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Constable's Notebook—February, 2007

Constable Bruce Elfant

At a recent neighborhood association meeting I was asked about the role of justices of the peace (JPs) in our judicial system. Last November Travis County voters re-elected three justices of the peace (Richard Scott, northeast, Barbara Bembry, northwest and Herb Evans, central) and elected two new JPs (Susan Steeg, southwest and Raul Gonzales, southeast) to serve Travis County citizens.

The office of JP was first established in 1363 by King Edward of England and was among the first offices established in the American colonies in 1620. The first Texas JP was appointed in 1823 for the Colorado District of Stephen F. Austin's first colony. Up to the time of Texas' admission to the United States in 1845 real government in Texas consisted primarily of JPs and constables.

JPs are elected in precincts (Travis County has five JP precincts) to four

year terms. Unlike trial or appellate judges, JPs do not have to be attorneys and unlike trial and appellate courts, litigants may represent themselves. Of the 900+ JPs serving Texas' 254 counties, only about 50 are attorneys. All Travis County JPs are attorneys. JPs and their staffs are prohibited from offering any legal advice.

Justice courts have original jurisdiction in criminal matters of misdemeanor cases punishable by fine only and such other jurisdiction as may be provided by law. JPs perform the functions of magistrates and conducts inquests, issue warrants for search and arrest, conduct preliminary hearings, administer oaths, perform marriages, and serve as coroner in counties where there is no provision for a medical examiner. The justice court functions as a small claims court in civil matters of up to \$5,000 in damages. JPs also have

jurisdiction over matters involving foreclosure of mortgages and enforcement of liens on personal property.

Travis County JPs estimate that more than 115,000 civil and criminal cases will be filed in the five justice courts in 2007. The vast majority of cases are criminal cases comprising mostly of traffic offenses. About 10% are civil cases and another 10% are truancy cases filed by school districts.

While JPs determine the outcome of civil and criminal cases, constables are charged with the responsibility to ensure due process and enforce court orders whether it is to serve notice of suits, execute arrest warrants, seize money or property to satisfy judgments or evict tenants (or to put them back in their apartments).

Filing fees to initiate civil cases in Justice Court are \$20 and issuance fees are set by each commissioner's court. An index of Travis County issuance fees may be found at www.Constable5.com/info/fees.html ❖

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Dog Talk: Bits and Pieces!!

Cheryl Silver

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The Kirkland brand of dog food (canned and dry) at Costco is a high-quality food and very reasonably priced. I would avoid any of their other dog foods.

Fill ice cube trays halfway with kibble and add water/unsalted broth. Pop the trays in the freezer. The kibble will swell up and you will have a tasty crunchy treat for your dog.

If adding a second dog to your family, it's likely to go better if you select a dog of the opposite sex from the first one. The females usually end up running the show <smile>. The toughest pairing is having two females.

If your dog has been vomiting or

having diarrhea, dehydration is a real risk. There are several ways to quickly test your dog. Place your finger between the dog's lip and gums. It should be moist; if dry—your dog is likely dehydrated. Grab your dog's skin between her shoulder blades and pull the skin straight up so it looks like a little tent. When you release the skin, it should drop back down immediately. If it goes down slowly, your dog is dehydrated. Test your dog now that he or she it is well so you can see how the dog is normally.

Some dogs resist having drops put in their ears and having flea preventative applied between their shoulder blades. If you spread peanut but-

ter, cream cheese, or other similar substance on the side of your bathtub or on your refrigerator, you can apply the medication while the dog happily licks the food. Ideally you will warm the ear drops before using them. Try this a few times without the medications to familiarize your dog with this process. Touch your dog's ears, etc. while introducing him to this procedure. ❖

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Allandale Needs You! Join ANA Today!

The Allandale Neighborhood Association (ANA) is known as a strong neighborhood association. We depend on your membership. We need neighbors to join ANA to continue to be a strong local group. By joining, you help produce this newsletter, put on the 4th of July Parade, fund our Partners in Education and much more. Please volunteer for activities that interest you. Fill out the membership form and mail it to the address provided.

New or Renewal Membership

Name _____

Street Address _____

Phone Number(s) _____

E-mail _____

Membership cost:

☐ \$10 per household ☐ \$7 senior citizen rate


We need volunteers! Please check your interests:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Create and post signs | <input type="checkbox"/> Write local history |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning | <input type="checkbox"/> July 4th Parade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attorney | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Crime prevention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Yarborough Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Make phone calls | <input type="checkbox"/> Shoal Creek issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write cards/letters | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter/website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Partners in Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sheffield NW District Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Metro |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shoal Creek cleanup | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering issues |

Please make checks payable to:

Allandale Neighborhood Association
PO Box 10886 ■ Austin, TX 78766-1886

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